

And our friends across the aisle. . . . Senators ABRAHAM, ASHCROFT, GORTON, GRAMS, MACK, and ROTH.

It's an honor to have served with all of them. I wish them well in all of their future pursuits.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of all the Democratic Senators, I express our appreciation for the kind words about our friend CHUCK ROBB. I sent him a note after the election, and he, of course, in his typical fashion responded. But I so much appreciate the Democratic leader covering his extraordinary life. One thing the leader didn't mention is that he is really a son of the West. He was born in Arizona. Of course, he went to high school in Fairfax and did a great job there.

One reason I so admire CHUCK ROBB—and the leader touched upon that—is his military record. I have not served in the U.S. military. I look at CHUCK ROBB with so much admiration. He went to the jungles of Vietnam. He didn't have to go, but he did. Not only did he go there, but he served in combat and was given a medal for valor. That says it all about CHUCK ROBB.

CHUCK ROBB's service for the 12 years he has been in the Senate has been one of valor. We have asked him to take credit for things he did, and he would not take credit. We have asked him to come forward on issues in which maybe he just had some tangential involvement. He said: No, that is not my legislation; I am not going to do it.

He is a man of great integrity. As the leader indicated, he doesn't promote himself. Of course, he doesn't do that.

But the thing I admire about CHUCK ROBB more than any other—more than his public service and more than his military record—is how he treats and talks to his family. He has three daughters and a wonderful wife.

With a heavy heart, I look at CHUCK ROBB here on the Senate floor for one of the last times. My life is better because of CHUCK ROBB. He has made me look better personally. He is a man of great integrity and a man of character. I will never forget the things he has done for me personally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator ROBB. He is truly one of the most honorable individuals I have ever met in my life. I thank him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I will just take one minute to thank my friends and colleagues for their eloquent and very greatly appreciated words. I have never been very good at showing emotion. I am not very good at saying thank you. But I want you to know that your words, your friendship, your leadership and your example have always been appreciated well beyond my ability to express it.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 2:30 with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR CHUCK ROBB

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, during the last few moments, several of our colleagues gave tribute to our friend. He is my friend and is someone so many of us admire here in the Senate. He is someone who has made a difference in this body and this country with his deep commitment to public service.

Reference was made this afternoon to Senator ROBB and his service in Vietnam. He fought for our country and served in the Armed Forces. Because of his strong beliefs and commitments to the values of the Nation, he made it his responsibility to respond to the Nation's call.

This is a real reflection of the strong commitment and the basic integrity of this extraordinary Senator and friend. He fought in Vietnam for the values he believed in deeply. He came back to this country served as a distinguished Governor of a great State, the State of Virginia. And he continued that service in the Senate.

CHUCK ROBB was a neighbor of mine. We have lived as neighbors for a number of years. He and Lynda have been good and valued friends over a great many years.

I have enjoyed working with him in the area of education. He has a fierce passion to try to make sure every child in this country is going to have a good quality education. Even though he is not a member of the education committee, he mastered this subject and also provided very important leadership in it.

I think so much of what is included in this dual appropriations legislation—which we hope we will have an opportunity to address in these next several hours and days—is really a tribute to the strong stands he took on good quality education for the children not just of Virginia but the children of this country.

I think he was always concerned about the balance between the expenditures and what the economy could stand. He is in every respect a fiscal conservative. He believed deeply in making sure we had a budget that was going to reflect our values, but also that we were going to take care that our resources were going to be well spent in the national interest.

Finally, I want to mention an additional field where his leadership was

very much in evidence; that is, in knocking down the walls of discrimination in all of the forms and shapes that have been presented in recent years. That is a defining issue for our country. America will never be America until we free ourselves from all types and all forms of discrimination.

There was never a battle in any of the areas involving discrimination in which CHUCK ROBB was not a leader. I will miss him on this Senate floor.

I join with my other colleagues in paying tribute to his service to the Senate, but most importantly to his State and also to our Nation. He has a great opportunity in the future for continued service. I think all Members in this body wish him well and look forward to opportunities of work with him closely again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

THE HISTORY OF OLDSMOBILE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to comment on a development that took place in my State this week. It was with great sadness that I heard of the phasing out of the Oldsmobile line of cars within the General Motors family. Over the last 105 years, Oldsmobile has been a Lansing, MI, and a State institution and, obviously, a national and international one as well. It was started 105 years ago when Ransom Eli Olds of Lansing, MI, teamed with Frank Clark, the son of a small carriage shop operator, to achieve what many believed impossible. They successfully produced a self-contained gasoline-powered carriage, and with it Oldsmobile was officially born in 1897.

Throughout its history, Oldsmobile has enjoyed a number of firsts: the first assembly line; and with the production of the curved dash, the first mass producer of gasoline cars; in 1905, two Oldsmobiles finished the very first transcontinental race from New York to Portland, OR, in 45 days; in 1940, models featured the Hydra-Matic drive, making this lineup the first vehicles with fully automatic transmissions; in 1966, Oldsmobile introduced the Toronado, the first modern-day front-wheel drive car; in 1974, that Toronado became the first American car to offer a driver's side airbag.

Millions of Americans have come to love their Oldsmobiles. An Olds convertible was the standard for transporting a Homecoming queen or a float parade when I was growing up. And an Oldsmobile sedan was the epitome of the middle-class family dream. All of this was made possible by the hard work and the commitment to affordable quality that was the hallmark of Oldsmobile in that division of General Motors.

On a personal level, I have a special stake in all of this, as well. Not only did I grow up in Lansing, MI, the home of Oldsmobile, but for almost 20 years my dad worked on the line at the Oldsmobile main assembly plant there. It is